

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02616 251349Z

64

ACTION PM-07

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R 251245Z JUN 74

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2616

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, EAID, PA

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY, FY76-80

SUMMARY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 31505

1. SUMMARY: BASED ON MY TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE STROESSNER GOVERNMENT, MAP GRANT MATERIEL AND TRAINING CONSTITUTE UNIQUE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE US INTEREST OF MAINTAINING OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOP. IN A SITUATION WHERE A STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP SERVES THE US INTEREST AND WHERE WE HAVE A MEDIUM-SIZED BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE MAP IS A RELATIVELY SMALL PROGRAM WITH VERY HIGH POLITICAL IMPORTANCE WHICH SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02616 251349Z

END SUMMARY.

2. OUR CURRENT CASP, AS MODIFIED IN THE IG/ARA, INCLUDES \$800,000 FOR MAP GRANT MATERIEL AND TRAINING, FY 75, AND \$600,000 FOR FY 76. BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY LIMITED LEVEL OF THIS SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM I AM SUBMITTING A SUMMARY STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 1 B OF REFTEL.

3. (A) IN TERMS OF RESOURCES MAP WILL CONSTITUTE A MODEST PORTION OF THE TOTAL OF US RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO PROMOTION OF US INTERESTS IN PARAGUAY DURING THE FY 76-80 TIME FRAME. US BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID, CONCENTRATING LARGELY ON AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND FAMILY PLANNING, WILL PROBABLY AVERAGE BETWEEN US\$ 2-5 MILLION PER YEAR; THAT RANGE WILL INCLUDE A RELATIVELY CONSTANT LEVEL OF T.A. GRANTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION, TOGETHER WITH FLUCTUATING LEVELS OF LOANS.

(B) MULTILATERAL LENDERS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE AS MAJOR SOURCES OF CONCESSIONAL LOANS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE IDB AND THE IBRD HAVE PLANS UNDERWAY FOR LOANS WHICH COULD TOTAL US\$70 MILLION FOR THE CY'S 1974 THROUGH 1977.

AS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THE UNDP AND OAS WILL BE PROVIDING EXPERTISE ON A WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING REGIONAL PLANNING, METEOROLOGY, CIVIL AVIATION, AND RIVER TRANSPORT. IN ADDITION, PARAGUAY WILL BE RECEIVING GRANT TECHNICAL AID FROM SUCH COUNTRIES AS THE UK, ISRAEL, NATIONALIST CHINA, AND SWITZERLAND.

(C) AS IN THE PAST, THE THRUST OF IDB AND IBRD PROGRAMS WILL BE LARGELY IN BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE PLUS EXPORT-RELATED AGRICULTURE. THE US BILATERAL PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WILL BE CONTINGENT, IN VARYING DEGREES, ON THE GOP'S SUCCESS IN COPING WITH ITS
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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 02616 251349Z

CHRONIC FISCAL DIFFICULTIES.

4. WHILE MAP IS ONE OF OUR SMALLER PROGRAMS IN TERMS OF RESOURCES, IT RANKS VERY HIGH IN TERMS OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. THE MAP SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED LARGELY TO OUR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOP. ON THE BASIS OF MY EXPERIENCE HERE OVER

NEARLY TWO YEARS, MAP IS A UNIQUE, PROVEN INSTRUMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE, IN DEALING WITH THE STROESSNER GOVERNMENT WHERE A STRONG BILATEAL RELATIONSHIP SERVES THE US INTEREST.

5. THE MAP IS NOT BEING USED FOR PROVIDING "WEAPONS SYSTEMS" FOR PARAGUAY. INSTEAD THE PROGRAM IS USED MAINLY IN PROVIDING VALUABLE INPUTS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL CIVIC-ACTION PROGRAMS OF THE ARMED FORCES. MAP MATERIEL RESOURCES ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE OPERATIONS OF TRANSPORTES AEREOS MILITARES (TAM), THE AIR FORCE'S "BUSH" AIRLINE, AND THE ARMY ENGINEERING COMMAND WITH ITS EXTENSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE. THE GRANT-FUNDED TRAINING PROGRAMS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR MILITARY VALUE, SERVE TO UPGRADE PARAGUAY'S SCARCE MANPOWER RESOURCES IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS MAINTENANCE OF ROAD-BUILDING AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

6. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND THE FY 76-80 TIME FRAME, IT IS APPARENT THAT (A) PARAGUAY'S DEVELOPMENTAL, FINANCIAL, AND GEOPOLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, WHILE (B) USG INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES (SEE OUR CURRENT CASP) WILL PROBABLY REMAIN CONSTANT. UNDER THESE ANTICIPATED CIRCUMSTANCES I STRONGLY URGE THAT SO LONG AS THERE IS LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR US MILITARY AID TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, THE US CONTINUE THE SMALL BUT EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT MAP GRANT MATERIEL AND TRAINING TO PARAGUAY.
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